

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 have been cancelled. New claims 12-16 are now in this case.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has rewritten all the claims to more particularly and distinctly claim the invention so as to overcome the technical rejections and define the invention over the prior art. Specifically, claim 1, line 9, and claims 6 and 11, line 18, recited, “so that the bimini bracket will slidingly engage the tubular member ...” New claims 12 and 16 now recite, “for allowing the bimini bracket to slidingly engage the tubular member...” Also, claim 6, line 21, and claim 11, line 22, recited, “so that the hand knob will be hand tightened, clamping the tubular member between the left and right side plates, thereby preventing the bimini bracket from sliding on the tubular member, and the hand knob will be hand loosened, allowing the bimini bracket to slide on the tubular member...” New claims 12 and 16 now recite, “for allowing the tubular member to be clamped between the left and right side plates when the hand knob is hand tightened, thereby preventing the bimini bracket from sliding on the tubular member, and for allowing the bimini bracket to slide on the tubular member when the hand knob is hand loosened.” The body of each of these claims has been amended to claim the subcombination. Applicant feels that the claims, as amended, satisfy 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,736,921 to Zane et al. Claims 1-6 have been cancelled.

Claims 7-10 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim. Applicant has cancelled claims 7-10, and rewritten them as new claims 13, 14, and 15. The disclosure of claim 7 has been added to base claim 6 and rewritten as new claim 12. New claim 12 is therefore felt to distinguish from Zane. Applicant feels that new claims 12, 13, 14, and 15 satisfy 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicant has cancelled claim 11, and rewritten it as new claim 16, as described above. Applicant feels that new claim 16 satisfies 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

References A, B, C, D, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, A (Warfel) and B (Ledingham) have been considered, but are not felt to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter of the claims now in this case.

No additional fees are due. No new matter has been added.

On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the application are believed to be warranted. Such action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date of Deposit: 01 February 2005

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